

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133820

FOL REPEAT CANBERRA 3810 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO

BANJUL BELGRADE BERLIN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST

MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA WARSAW BRUSSELS USUN GENEVA IAEA

VIENNA SUVA BY POUCH JUN 19

QTE

O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN, CB, AS, PBOR

SUBJECT: LOS: PRG AND KHMER ISSUES IN LOS CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 129186;

(B) CANBERRA 3789 (NOTAL);

(C) C. STATE 121451

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS REAFFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT AUSTRALIANS WILL OPPOSE ADMISSION OF PRG AND GRUNK AS GOVERNMENTS OF A STATE AT LOS CONFERENCE. GOA WILL BE PREPARED TO VOTE FOR THEIR ADMISSION AS OBSERVERS, BUT PRG/GRUNK HAVE SO FAR NOT BEEN PREPARED TO APPLY FOR OBSERVER STATUS. DFA SAID THERE MIGHT BE "HUMANITARIAN" CONFERENCES AT WHICH GOA WOULD ACCEPT PRG/GRUNK BUT COULD GIVE NO EXAMPLES. GOA HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON POLICY OF ADMISSION OF PRG/GRUNK AT
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LUCERNE MEETING ON WEAPONS IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. DFA (FEAKES, FIRST ASST SEC, SOUTH ASIA DIVISION) INFORMED EMBOFF JUNE 19 THAT AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON PARTICIPATION OF PRG AND GRUNK IN LOS CONFERENCE HAS NOT RPT NOT CHANGED. GOA DELEGATION INSTRUCTION IS NOT RPT NOT TO ACCEPT PARTICIPATION OF PRG AND GRUNK AS GOVERNMENTS OF A STATE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT PRG AND GRUNK IN OBSERVER STATUS, ALTHOUGH ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (MOST NOTABLY GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR IN FEBRUARY) PRG AND GRUNK HAVE NOT RPT NOT SOUGHT OBSERVER STATUS AS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

3. FEAKES ADDED THAT THERE MAY BE "HUMANITARIAN" CONFERENCES WHERE GOA WOULD SEE ADVANTAGE IN ADMISSION OF PRG AND GRUNK IN SOME FORM, THOUGH HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT HAVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE IN MIND. ASKED WHAT GOA VIEW WOULD BE OF PRG AND GRUNK PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON WEAPONS IN LUCERNE IN SEPTEMBER, FEAKES SAID GOA HAS NOT RPT NOT YET DEFINED ITS POLICY ON THIS ISSUE.

4. EMBOFF NOTED PASSAGE IN SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLESEE JUNE 15 (REF B) AND ASKED IF THIS PRESAGED CHANGE IN GOA POLICY, SINCE IT NOTES THAT ADMITTING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPROVE OF THEIR POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES. FEAKES SAID THAT SPEECH HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED TO SIGNAL CHANGE IN GOA POLICY.

5. COMMENT: FEAKES IS EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT WHO HAS ACCURATELY CONVEYED DIRECTION OF GOA POLICY IN PAST ON MANY ISSUES, AND WE SEE NO REASON TO QUESTION HIS STATEMENT ON ADMISSION OF PRG AND GRUNK AS GOVERNMENTS AT LOS CONFERENCE. PASSAGE IN SENATOR WILLESEE'S SPEECH OF JUNE 15, REFERRED TO ABOVE, IS AT LEAST EQUIVOCAL, AND WE STILL HAVE UNEASY FEELING THAT CHANGE IN OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN POLICY IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. IT MAY BE THAT, UNTIL NEW CABINET IS FUNCTIONING AND INFLUENCE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS (LONG-TIME PARTISAN OF PRG AND GRUNK) MAKES ITSELF FELT, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE ON THIS MATTER. GOA POLICY ON ADMISSION OF PRG AND GRUNK TO LUCERNE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WILL PRESUMABLY BE NEXT SIGNIFICANT LITMUS TEST OF

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AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES.
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